

## OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

## GOSSIP FROM GOTHAM.

"Don't Come to New York"—Sad Ending of a Brilliant Career—About Microscopes, Etc.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)  
NEW YORK, September 5, 1885.  
Don't come to New York! It is good advice to any young man who is out of employment and has his eyes turned longingly towards the metropolis as the Mecca of his hopes. The newspapers swarm with advertisements for situations, and the streets swarm with idle people hunting for something to do. The dull times have thrown out of employment thousands of salesmen, clerks, merchants, and professional men, and being unable to manual labor, they cannot turn their hands to digging a cellar or carrying a load. The consequence is that a large class of respectable persons who once considered their positions permanent must now be content with a pittance. A young fellow who a little while ago was earning \$2,500 a year as a book-keeper is now receiving \$30 a month as a clerk. A telegraphic operator who, a couple of years ago, was superintending an office at a salary of two hundred dollars a month, is now manipulating a key for two dollars a day. An officer during the war, who subsequently earned from twenty-five to forty dollars a week in doing odd journalistic work, is now a tramp, and happy if he gets enough to keep him in board and clothes. Wherever there is a vacancy hundreds stand ready to make a grab for it, and if one occurs a moment does not dare to advertise to get out from under the rush. He therefore receives his applications by mail, and must choose the best he can. So I repeat, "Don't come to New York in search of employment."

VENTUROLI.  
A sad case of destitution, which periodically comes to the front, is that of Venturoli, once a famous premiere danseur in "The Black Crook," but now a helpless imbecile and paralytic. Years ago the city editor of the *Herald*, receiving a note from some kindly-disposed person announcing her misfortune, sent a reporter to investigate the circumstances. The latter found, among the squalid lodgings on the east side of the city, a little family consisting of Venturoli, his old Italian mother, and a child. A dish of bones picked out of the garbage barrels on the street told how near they were to starvation. A relief fund of two or three hundred dollars was quickly raised, but when it was exhausted the poor dancer became a street beggar. Not common once by the way, in the usual acceptance of the term, because there is something in the bent and shriveled form, the distorted face, and twisted neck, the tottering limbs that can move only a few inches at a time, and the great lustrous, dark eyes, which never fail to appeal to the charitable, and many is the dime dropped into his shrunken and useless hands. She never asks for a gift, and, having lost the power of articulation, can only mumble her thanks in a word of two Italian. It is a hard case, and there are hundreds of similar ones, only we don't hear of them; but if they were known, it takes so much "influence" to get relief from a public institution that the sufferers frequently die before the red tape can be unrolled. It seems a pity that so much money is sent into the hands of harpies by people in their wills only to be wasted in fat salaries and rich living by the men and women who make the harpishness a trade. This concluding with the Almighty for one's meanness during life by leaving big legacies to a fashionable charity may look very nice in the obituary notices, but even the half dozen fancy preachers who turn the funeral into a show know that it is all rot. The lawyers generally follow the ministers, and if the really deserving ever get the levings it is somebody's finger.

DID HE SEE THE SOUL?  
A week or two ago an incident was related in these columns concerning a soldier who, after having his leg amputated during one of the battles around Richmond, fell an intolerable torture in his missing foot until Dr. Sussdorf, the division surgeon, ordered the limb to be disintegrated, washed, and reburied, a handful of gravel having been found between the toes. Now a story comes from the West (and they never tell anything but the truth out yonder) that a scientific explorer has witnessed the movements of an absent and through a microscope of some peculiar construction, and even seen the passage from a body of a departing soul. Given the amount of fiction with which the tale is invested, Sir Charles Bell, a famous physician, in his "Treatise on the Hand," written fifty years ago, suggests the same idea—to wit, that there is no vacuum in nature, every cell and fibre in the system being a vehicle of life as far as it is known to natural or microscopic vision, it is reasonable to suppose that what we may not see with our naked eye, or the instruments of science, may be seen by the microscope. Speaking of microscopes, you would be surprised at the extent to which they are coming into popular use, and how much they enter into the conversations of business-men. Thousands of persons of both sexes are engaged in experiments and investigations, and miniature microscopes, ranging in price from twenty-five cents to a dollar or two, are peddled on the streets. Choice instruments cost from fifty to four hundred dollars, and there is a steady demand for literature that treats of the interesting subject. At a recent gathering in this city the company read Gray's "Elegy," containing thirty-two verses on a spot one-tenth of an inch square. They also saw, among other objects, the tongue of a fly, the tooth of a guinea, the digestive apparatus of a flea, the eyebrow of an insect too small to be detected with the naked eye, the circulation of the blood in a mosquito's jugular vein, an abscess on the back of a fly's neck, a fracture in an ant's collar-bone, and a thousand other extraordinary sights. It is safe to say there are more amateur microscopists in the country than amateur photographers.

PEOPLE WHO WANT THEIR WAY.  
And this recalls a recent conversation had with "Sammy," in which he gave me a point or two in reference to his own art. He said: "If any one endures mental affliction in these hot days it is your first-class artist, who, in posing subjects for a picture, is obliged to elicit every whim of his notional visitors, and then send out to the professional world such that ought to go in the rubbish-basket, yet have a score of such people to deal with every day. Instead of leaving to me the position, and de-

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Judge McCre, Solicitor of the Treasury, has given opinion that \$100,000 is the lawful amount to be expended in enlarging the custom-house at Richmond, and that the subsequent appropriation of \$30,000 contained in the sundry civil bill for a public building at Richmond, Va., cannot be legally used for that purpose. It is likely, however, that Assistant-Secretary Fairchild, who has the matter in charge, will decide that both appropriations can be expended on the custom-house on the theory that it is the only public building that could have been contemplated by the appropriation act.

Adjutant-General Drum to-day telegraphed instructions to Major-General Schell, at Chicago, to order additional United States troops to Evansville, Wyoming Territory, where the fleeing Chinese are concentrating, and to all other points along the routes of the United States mails in that Territory where there are indications of trouble.

Further Particulars of the Loss of the *Heronian*.  
(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)  
ST. JOHNS, N. F., September 5.—This morning the steamer *Heronian* arrived with the balance of the passengers and crew of the *Haverhill*. Interviews with Professor Bell of Washington, Mr. Starr, of Halifax, and other prominent passengers, disclose the following additional particulars: The loss of the ship is attributed to a miscalculation of the ship's running on the day before the disaster. No lights were obtainable, and the ship was sailing on dead reckoning. The day's run was first published on the tablet as 252 miles, but was afterward altered to 252 miles, a discrepancy in the exact difference between the safety and destruction of the ship. The first figures were absolutely correct, as shown by the position of the steamer. Passengers complain strongly that the officers and crew, instead of endeavoring to save the luggage, were engaged in securing mirrors, plate-glass ware, flower-pots, and general cabin furniture.

Dr. Armstrong's Case.  
(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)  
ATLANTA, GA., September 5.—After an investigation of the reports of immoral conduct in Cincinnati of Rev. James G. Armstrong, rector of St. Philip's church of Atlanta, the vestry to-day passed the following resolution, and Dr. Armstrong will resume his duties tomorrow.

Resolved, That after a careful and thorough investigation of the reports which have been printed reflecting upon Rev. Dr. Armstrong, it is the opinion of this vestry that the facts do not demand the withdrawal of confidence in our esteemed rector.

Denunciatory Resolutions.  
(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)  
AUBURN, N. Y., September 5.—J. H. Sheban, who left last evening as a delegate to the Irish Catholic Benevolent Union Convention in Brooklyn next week, carried with him a set of resolutions denouncing the conduct of Austria towards Minister Kelley. The Convention will be asked to adopt them. Mr. Kelley was president of the Union for twelve years.

Bicyclists as Scouts.  
(By cable to the Dispatch.)  
VIENNA, September 5.—The employment of bicyclists as scouts for the Intelligence Department in military maneuvers has proved a great success. They surpassed horsemen in endurance.

Murder in Kentucky.  
(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)  
LOUISVILLE, KY., September 5.—Lindsey Buckler walked up behind A. L. Snyder last night and shot him dead, and then escaped.

## PETERSBURG AND VICINITY.

## A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER.

Colonel Brady and Mr. Van Auker Meet in a Room—The Republican Mass-Meeting in Petersburg—The Richmond Dispatch.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)  
PETERSBURG, September 5, 1885.  
Among the gentlemen who occupied seats on the stage of the Academy of Music last night during the progress of the Republican mass-meeting were Senator Mahone, Congressman Brady, and Mr. J. H. Van Auker. Their calm demeanor did not indicate to the audience that but a few minutes before two of them had met in a room behind the curtain, and that but for the prompt interference of mutual friends there might have been a serious personal encounter. For some time past there had existed an unfriendly feeling between Colonel Brady and Mr. Van Auker, growing out of some personal differences between them, and this feeling, it is said, had extended so far as to interrupt all intercourse. Last night when they met at the rear stage, according to reports, Brady, believing that his advances would be met, extended his hand to Mr. Van Auker. The latter refused to accept it, and told Colonel Brady not to speak to him. Colonel Brady quickly raised his gold-headed cane and struck at Mr. Van Auker. The latter partially warded off the blow, receiving a bruise on the right eye and right hand, and then made a rush for Colonel Brady. Both gentlemen were seized by friends before they met, and were kept apart, though struggling to get together. Van Auker struck two or three times at Colonel Brady's face, but inflicted no damage other, possibly, but a slight bruise. Mr. Van Auker is a strongly-built man, and Colonel Brady is smaller in stature, and both full of pluck, and one or both of them would doubtless have been severely injured had they not been kept apart. In view of Colonel Brady's conduct yesterday with Mr. Porter at Portsmouth, the matter was much talked of to-day.

A RIDICULOUS FIZZLE.  
More than ten days ago it was announced that Colonel R. B. Berkeley, of Farmville, a Republican convert from Democracy, over whom the Mahone people have been crowing joyously, would address the Republican voters of this city last night. Yesterday, with drum and life, an effort was made to gather together the usual crowd of faithful allies. But the meeting was distinctly a disappointment to the party managers. The faithful allies here in the home of Senator Mahone, here in the stronghold of Republicanism, could be induced to assemble in meagre numbers only. The meeting was set for 8 o'clock. It was nearly 9 before any had assembled. At that hour General Mahone introduced Colonel Berkeley, whose speech presented one sensible feature at least—it was as long as a novel. The Colonel talked of the spirit and the eloquence displayed in his old-time Democratic address, and doubtless lacked the theme that once inspired him; or maybe his continued speaking during the past two weeks had made him "tired." He made a little sensation among the colored allies by dramatically pointing to General Mahone and exclaiming: "There's my boss, and I am proud of him." He declared that he could give good and sensible reasons why he is a national Republican, and led off by the astonishing assertion that the "Republican party had given us a powerful navy, of which we could justly feel proud." He would probably have said more, but somebody said something about "Dolphin," and then the Colonel remarked that the second reason he would add was the fact that the "Republican party had given us an army which, though costing but little, made us feared and respected abroad." The Colonel's accustomed fluency had forsaken him. Subjects of trenchant interest he would dismiss with a sentence. As a Republican orator he was a failure, and Republicans felt this last night, while Democrats (many of whom were present) rather enjoyed their discomfiture.

Washington Notes.  
(By telegraph to the Dispatch.)  
WASHINGTON, September 5.—Secretary Manning resumed his duties at the Treasury Department to-day, after an absence of several weeks at the seaside.

Charles T. Ward, who has been imprisoned here several days as the supposed murderer of Calie Gordon, at High Street, has been ordered to be discharged. He was not identified as the party wanted.

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